

August 23, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Phil Oldenburg of the
Murphy Commission on the Organization of the
Government for the Conduct of Foreign Policy

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Oldenburg, [] of the
IC Staff, Ms. [] and the
Undersigned.

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1. Mr. Oldenburg stuck pretty much to the substantive issues Mr. Fisher Howe had indicated in his letter of August 15th that Oldenburg would raise. Much of the time was given over to an examination of the intelligence community's evolving appreciation of the [] capabilities and the [] role in support of them as the drama unfolded in the spring, summer, and fall of 1971. [] had made a thorough review of the Agency's finished intelligence record on the subject and was thus able to discuss it in detail.

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2. Mr. Oldenburg also pursued, but with less clarity and tenacity, the question of what role the [] military played in influencing [] responses to the unfolding situation. Because of the inevitable tendency of secondary protagonists in a crisis of the dimensions of the one in which the [] found themselves, to clam up, or at least to dissemble, in conversations with their American interlocutors, the intelligence take on this aspect of the situation was by no means as full as in other areas. We told Mr. Oldenburg as much.

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3. Finally, Mr. Oldenburg asked some general questions about Indian intentions and actions at various stages of the crisis. We had little difficulty fielding these question.

4. In general the session went smoothly enough, if somewhat desultorily. On the few occasions when Mr. Oldenburg seemed to be wandering into policy areas, we had no trouble getting him back on the substantive track. This appeared to have been his last stop; he said he had previously had long talks with Hal Saunders and Dean Howells (the INR South Asian specialist), among others. He clearly was running short of questions to ask by the time he got to us.

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Deputy Chief, Middle East

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